AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) Screw (1) for ~~the~~ electrical connection of a cable terminal to a railway track ~~or the like~~, comprising a base body (2) having:

- an elongated shank (3) having a longitudinal axis (L),
- a strike head (4) connected with a first end of the shank (3),
- means (6) for ~~the~~ removable connection of a strike organ or nut (5) with a second end of the shank (3) opposite said first end, said screw (1) further comprising:
- a support element (7) manufactured separately from the base body (2) and associated to the strike head (4) so as to form a stroke (11) that defines a cavity (9) turned towards the second end of the shank (3), wherein the screw (1) is pre-assembled and comprises means (10, 8) for making a substantially irreversible connection of the support element (7) to the base body (2), in which the support element (7) and the base body (2) are coupled such that they rotate together around the longitudinal axis (L).

2. (Original) The screw (1) according to the claim 1, wherein the strike head (4) and the shank (3) are formed integrally.

3. (Previously amended) The screw (1) according to the claim 1, wherein said removable connection means (6) comprise an outer threading (6) of the shank (3) suitable to engage a corresponding inner threading of the strike organ or nut (5).

4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously amended) The screw (1) according to claim 1, wherein the support element (7) and the base body (2) are substantially integral in translation along the longitudinal axis (L).

6. (Currently amended) The screw (1) according to claim [[4]] 1, wherein ~~said rotably and/or translatably integral connection is made~~ the support element (7) and the base body (2) are coupled by a shape coupling between the support element (7) and the base body (2).

7. (Previously amended) The screw (1) according to claim 1, wherein the irreversible connection means (10) enable limited relative movements between the support element (7) and the base body (2).

8. (Original) The screw (1) according to the claim 7, wherein the irreversible connection means (10) enable an inclination of the support element (7) in relation to the longitudinal axis (L).

9. (Previously amended) The screw (1) according to claim 1, wherein the irreversible connection means (10) are at least partially deformable and configured so as to

- connect the base body (2) and the support element (7) rigidly when the irreversible connection means (10) are not deformed and

- enable limited relative movements between the base body (2) and the support element (7) when the irreversible connection means (10) are deformed.

10. (Currently amended) The screw (1) according to claim 1, wherein the irreversible connection means (10) deform plastically during ~~the~~ a tightening of the screw (1) on irregular surfaces.

11. (Previously amended) The screw (1) according to claim 1, wherein said cavity (9) is ring shaped and extends and around the shank (3).

12. (Previously amended) The screw (1) according to claim 1, wherein the support element (7) has the shape of a flattened cap provided with a central aperture (12) that houses the shank (3) of the screw (1).

13. (Currently amended) The screw (1) according to claim 12, wherein the central aperture (12) is a hole having a greater diameter than the diameter of the shank (3), thus providing a gap between the shank (3) and the ~~interdos~~ intrados of the support element (7) ~~hole (12)~~.

14. (Previously amended) The screw (1) according to claim 1, wherein said irreversible connection means (10) comprise one or more projecting parts (10) that protrude from the shank (3) and rest against the support element (7) thus keeping it in contact with the strike head (4).

15. (Previously amended) The screw (1) according to claim 14, wherein said projecting parts (10) protrude radially in relation to the longitudinal axis (L).

16. (Previously amended) The screw (1) according to claim 14, wherein said projecting parts (10) are distributed at constant pitch around the shank (3).

17. (Original) The screw (1) according to the claim 16, comprising three projecting parts (10).

18. (Currently amended) The screw (1) according to claim 14, wherein said projecting parts (10) are obtained by the deformation of ~~the~~ material of the shank (3).

19. (Previously amended) The screw (1) according to claim 1, wherein the support element (7) comprises a polygonal impression (8) that engages the strike head (4) in order to make a joined shape coupling rotatably integral around the longitudinal axis (L).

20. (Currently amended) The screw (1) according to claim 1, wherein said base body (2) and said support element (7) are in a metallic material~~, preferably steel~~.

21. (Currently amended) Nut for ~~the~~ electrical connection of a cable terminal to a railway track ~~or the like~~, comprising a strike organ and means for ~~the~~ removable connection of the strike organ with a screw, and a support element (7) manufactured separately from the strike organ and

associable thereto so as to form a stroke that defines a cavity destined to be turned towards a strike head of said screw, wherein the nut is pre-assembled and comprises means for making a substantially irreversible connection of the support element to the strike organ, and wherein the support element (7) and the base body (2) are coupled such that they rotate together around the longitudinal axis (L).

22. (Currently amended) Method for manufacturing a screw (1) according to claim 1, comprising the following steps:

providing a base body (2) having:

- an elongated shank (3) having a longitudinal axis (L),
- a strike head (4) connected with a first end of the shank (3),
- means (6) for the removable connection of a strike organ or nut (5) with a second end of the shank (3) opposite said first end, to provide a support element (7) manufactured separately from the base body (2) and provided with a cavity (9) and an aperture (12) suitable to house the shank (3);

inserting the shank (3) of the base body (2) into the aperture (12) of the support element (7) to ~~the~~ a point in which the support element (7) abuts against the strike head (4) so as to form a stroke (11) that defines a cavity (9) turned towards the second end of the shank (3), comprising further the step of:

~~deforming the material of the shank (3) in order to form one or more projecting parts (10)~~ providing means (10, 8) for ~~that make~~ making a substantially irreversible connection of the support element (7) to the base body (2), and coupling the support element (7) to the base body (2) such that the support element (7) and the base body (2) rotate together around the longitudinal axis (L), and wherein the coupling is achieved by pressing the strike head (4) against the support element (7) so as to form in the support element (7) an impression (8) having a polygonal shape of the strike head (4).

23. (Original) The method for manufacturing a screw (1) according to the claim 22, wherein the deformation step of the material of the shank (3) takes place when cold.

24. (Currently amended) The method for manufacturing a screw (1) according to claim 22, comprising the step of shifting material of the surface of the shank (3) along a longitudinal axis (L) thereof in the direction of the strike head (4) without completely detaching said material from the shank (3) in order to obtain burrs or shavings ~~(10)~~ that rest against the support element (7) leaned in turn against the strike head (4).

25. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 22, comprising the phase of ~~pressing the strike head (4) against the support element (7), so as to form, in the support element (7), an impression (8) having the shape, preferably polygonal, of the strike head (4)~~ deforming the material of the shank (3) in order to form one or more projecting parts (10) that make said substantially irreversible connection of the support element (7) to the base body (2).

26. (Currently amended) The method according to claim ~~25~~22, wherein the ~~run-out of the~~ step of pressing the strike head (4) against the support element (7) includes ~~is defined by the~~ elimination of ~~the~~ distance present between the support element (7) and a guide element (30a) of ~~the~~ incision tips.

27. (Currently amended) Equipment (13) for irreversibly connecting a support element (7) to a base body (2) in order to manufacture a screw (1) according to claim 1, wherein said base body (2) comprises:

- an elongated shank (3) having a longitudinal axis (L),
- a strike head (4) connected with a first end of the shank (3),
- means (6) for the removable connection of a strike organ or nut (5) with a second end of the shank (3) opposite said first end, and said support element (7) is manufactured separately from the base body (2) and associated to the strike head (4) so as to form a stroke (11) that defines a cavity (9) turned towards the second end of the shank (3), said equipment comprising:
- a base plate (14) provided with one or more activation organs (23);

- a support device (17) that defines a seat (26) suitable to house at least a part of the base body (2) of the screw (1);

- one or more incision tools (24) provided with an incision tip (30),

- sliding connection means (15, 16) that connect the support device (17) to the base plate (14) slidingly along a sliding axis (S), wherein the activation organs (23) interact with the incision tools (24) so that ~~the~~ movement of the support device (17) in relation to the base plate (14) entails a movement of the incision tools (24) in relation to the seat (26) so that the incision tips (30) deform ~~the~~ material of the shank (3) in order to form one or more projecting parts (10) that make said substantially irreversible connection of the support element (7) to the base body (2), and

- a press suitable to act on the strike head (4) to press the strike head (4) against the support element (7) so as to form in the support element (7) an impression (8) having a shape, preferably polygonal, of the strike head (4) to couple the support element (7) and the base body (2) such that they rotate together about the longitudinal axis (L).

28. (Original) The equipment (13) according to the claim 27, wherein said one or more incision tools (24) are provided with a activation portion (32), said incision tip (30) and said activation portion (32) being adjustable in relation to one another in order to vary the total length of the incision tool (24).

29. (Previously amended) The equipment (13) according to claim 27, wherein the sliding axis (S) is substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the seat (26) and said incision tips (30) extend along inclined axes in relation to the sliding axis (S).

30. (Previously amended) The equipment (13) according to claim 27, wherein said sliding connection means comprise guide pins (15) slidingly housed in holes (16).

31. (Previously amended) The equipment (13) according to claim 27, wherein said incision tools (24) are at least partially housed in special cavities (25) formed in the support device (17) that make movement guides thereof.

32. (Previously amended) The equipment (13) according to claim 27, comprising elastic means (35) acting between said support device (17) and said incision tools (24) so as to stress the incision tools (24) elastically in a rest position, in which the incision tips (30) are retracted from the seat (26).

33. (Currently amended) The equipment according to the claim 32, wherein said elastic means (35) are housed inside ~~the~~ cavities (25) for the incision tools (24).

34. (Previously amended) The equipment according to claim 27, wherein said support device (17) and said base plate (14) comprise stop surfaces suitable to rest against one another in order to limit the sliding movement of the support device (17) in relation to the support plate (14).